

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) An electric discharge lamp comprising:
  - a light-transmissive ceramic lamp vessel (1);
  - a first and a second current conductor (2,3) entering the lamp vessel (1), and each supporting an electrode (4,5) in the lamp vessel (1);
  - an ionizable filling comprising a rare gas and a metal halide in the lamp vessel (1);at least the first current conductor (2) within the lamp vessel (1) being halide-resistant, characterized in that the first current conductor (2) at least substantially comprises a material with an at least substantially isotropic coefficient of thermal expansion.
2. (original) An electric discharge lamp according to claim 1, wherein said material is chosen from the group of  $Mo_5(Si,X)_3$ , wherein X is B, Al, N or C.
3. (original) An electric discharge lamp according to claim 2, wherein said material is pentamolybdenum diboride silicide.

4. <sup>7</sup> (currently amended) An electric discharge lamp according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein also the second current conductor (3) at least substantially comprises a material with an at least substantially isotropic coefficient of thermal expansion.

5. (original) An electric discharge lamp according to claim 4, wherein said material is chosen from the group of  $\text{Mo}_5(\text{Si}, \text{X})_3$ , wherein X is B, Al, N or C preferably is pentamolybdenum diboride silicide.

6. (currently amended) An electric discharge lamp according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1 through 5~~ claim 1, wherein said material is co-sintered to the ceramic material of the lamp vessel (1) at a manufacturing temperature of the lamp.

7. (currently amended) An electric discharge lamp according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1 through 5~~ claim 1, wherein the first and the second current conductor (2,3) each extend from a sealing compound (6) sealing the lamp vessel (1) around the current conductors (2,3) in a gastight manner to the exterior of the lamp vessel (1), and wherein the lamp vessel (1) has extended plugs (11,12) in which a respective current conductor (2,3) is enclosed,

which plugs (11,12) have a free end (111,112) where the lamp vessel (1) is sealed by the sealing compound (6).